

- a memory for storing caller information and related caller group information,
- a display unit, and
- a controller, the controller displays the caller information in the display unit and searches the memory, and when the transmitted caller information coincides with caller information in the memory, the caller group information which relates to the transmitted caller information is identified and displayed.

The telephone apparatus of claim 1 includes a memory which associates caller information with caller group information, and it also includes a controller which searches this memory so that when the transmitted caller information coincides with caller information in the memory, the caller group information which relates to the transmitted caller information is identified and displayed (hereinafter generally referred to as the "Group Information Feature" of Applicants' claimed invention). Neither the Figa Patent nor the Miyamoto Patent teaches or suggests the Group Information Feature.

Applicants' claimed invention results in identifying the group to which an incoming call is assigned based on a comparison of the incoming call information and the caller group information stored in the memory. This feature provides the user with the convenience of allowing the user to classify calls into groups and search for numbers based on the classification of groups. The concept of groups of callers and the Group Information Feature are not found or suggested in any of the references of record.

The Office Action admits that "Figa does not explicitly show an operation unit for specifying caller group information, which relates to the caller information". (See page 3 of the Office Action; emphasis added). The Office Action goes on and states, however, that "Figa Figure 2 shows caller group (e.g. "ABRAHAM AND SON") relating to caller information". Applicants respectfully disagree with this point raised in the Office Action. While figure 2 of the Figa Patent shows a display panel of a control console with a name line 32 reading "ABRAHAM AND SON", this seems to relate to a company and does not in a manner relate to a group and certainly not "caller group information" as used in Applicants' claim 1 relative to the Group Information Feature.

It is Applicants' further position that these deficiencies of the Figa Patent are not rectified by the Miyamoto Patent.

The Miyamoto Patent relates to a telephone apparatus including a decoder, a memory, a comparison circuit, and an output device. As explained in the Abstract of the Miyamoto Patent, if a coincidence is detected between the output data of the decoder and the telephone number data of the memory based on the comparison result of the comparison circuit, the output device notifies a user that the call corresponds to one of the telephone number data stored in the memory. But nowhere in the Miyamoto Patent is there any teaching or suggestion of a Group Information Feature as defined in Applicants' claim 1.

Applicants further note that Miyamoto describes an operation panel in Figure 2 wherein reference numeral 10 represents a one-touch operation portion, and is provided with a plurality of one-touch keys 5 and a nameplate 6 for indicating the names of caller. In addition, LED's 7 are provided next to each of the one-touch keys 5. When information on a telephone number of a caller is detected, information on the telephone number is decoded. The decoded telephone number data is compared with the telephone number data which is stored in correspondence with a respective one-touch key 5 in the memory. If there is any coincident telephone number data, the LED 7 located near to the one-touch key 5 for which the coincident telephone number is registered as a one-touch dial is turned on and off in accordance with the bell signals. Thus the user can identify the caller. (See the Miyamoto Patent at column 6, line 58 to column 7, line 11). But nowhere in the Miyamoto Patent is there any teaching or suggestion of the Group Information Feature. In other words, the Miyamoto Patent simply does not identify a caller with respect to a caller group.

In the Miyamoto Patent, when an operation key is pushed, the corresponding telephone number stored in memory is dialed, and when the caller's telephone number received coincides with a telephone number stored in the memory, and LED lights up next to the stored telephone number and blinks. The LED of Miyamoto only identifies one telephone number. The operating key and the LED in the Miyamoto Patent has nothing to do with identifying a caller with respect to a group as set forth in Applicants' claim 1 to which claims 2 and 5 depend.

The Office Action indicates at line 7-9 of page 4 that "it would have been obvious for anyone of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention as taught by Figa to include an operation unit as taught by Miyamoto so that the user does not have to manually input the name and corresponding telephone number". (Emphasis added). But Applicants must point out that the Group Information Feature of Applicants claim 1 is not in any manner related to this purpose identified by the Office Action with respect to the Miyamoto Patent.

Applicants also disagree that it would be obvious to combine Figa with Miyamoto. Nowhere in the Miyamoto Patent is there any suggestion or motivation to combine it with the Figa Patent. Applicants contend that the combination of these references is nothing more than hindsight reconstruction of Applicants' claimed invention.

Although claim 2 is dependent on claim 1, it also includes features neither taught nor suggested in the references of record.

Claim 2 includes a feature that "said controller, when making a call reads out caller information in a specified group from said memory and displays in said display unit on the basis of the operation of said operation unit, and generates a dial signal of telephone number included in the caller information displayed in said display unit ...". The Office Action incorrectly associates this feature with the Figa Patent when it states "Figa teaches allowing the user to make a call by dialing one or more characters instead of the whole number". (See page 4 of the Office Action). But the feature noted above with respect to claim 2 is not taught by the Figa Patent since the Figa Patent does not in any manner relate or suggest the concept of a "group" and identifying a call and associating that caller with caller group information. Thus claim 2 is further differentiated from the Figa Patent.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, 2 and 5 are neither anticipated nor obvious in view of the Figa and Miyamoto Patents and request that the Section 103(a) rejection directed to these claims be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 4 and 6-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Figa and Miyamoto in view of Uyeno. Applicants respectfully traverse this Section 103(a) rejection.

Independent claim 3 is directed to a telephone apparatus and includes the following elements:

- an information detector for detecting transmitted caller information,
- an operation unit for registration of caller group information which relates to the caller information,
- a memory for storing caller information and related caller group information,
- a display unit,
- a light source for emitting a plurality of color lights for illuminating the display unit, and
- a controller for controlling the light source,
- wherein the light source emits a first color light when the caller information detected by the information detector coincides with the caller information stored in the memory and, the controller causes the identification and display of the caller group information, and the light source emits a second color light when the caller information detected by the information detector does not coincide with caller information stored in the memory.

The telephone apparatus of claim 3 includes the feature that the light source emits a first color light when the caller identification detected by the information detector coincides with the caller information stored in the memory, and the light source emits a second color light when the caller identification detected by the information detector does not coincide with information stored in the memory. This feature is not taught in any of the references of record. The Office Action readily admits that "Figa does not explicitly show using a plurality of color lights for illuminating the display unit". Applicants submit that this is also true with respect to the Miyamoto Patent. To rectify this deficiency, the Office Action looks to the Uyeno Patent. But the Uyeno Patent does not overcome the deficiencies heretofore discussed with respect to the Figa and Miyamoto Patents.

The Uyeno Patent relates to a quick-recognition visual notification system for use in telephonic communication devices. Identification data such as device ownership or the nature of an incoming communication, is communicated to the device by utilizing electronic circuitry of the device to assign distinct color-codes to identification data therein. The color codes are then displayed on indicia, integral with the housing of the device, which indicates the nature of the identification data to the owner or user.

But nowhere in the Uyeno Patent is there any teaching or suggestion of a telephone apparatus like claim 3 where in the light source emits a first color light when the caller information detected by the information detector coincides with the caller information stored in the memory and also emits a second color light when the caller information detected by the information detector does not coincide with the information stored in the memory. Thus the combination of the Figa, Miyamoto, and Uyeno Patents does not teach or suggest the telephone apparatus of claim 3, as well as that of dependent claims 4, 9 and 10.

Applicants further note that dependent claims 4 and 10 concern the further feature that when caller information detected coincides with caller group information stored in the memory, a third color light is emitted. This feature is not taught or suggested in the Uyeno Patent. That is, the Uyeno Patent does not disclose a third color light which is displayed when caller information coincides with information stored in the memory relative to caller group information.

Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 3, 4, 9 and 10 with respect to the Figa, Miyamoto and Uyeno Patents be withdrawn.

Independent claim 6 is directed to a telephone apparatus and includes the following features:

- a plurality of sub units,
- an information detector for detecting transmitted caller information,
- a caller information memory for storing the caller information detector,

- a response information memory for storing the sub unit information of the sub unit answering the call and the caller information detected by the information detector,
- a sub unit specifying caller information memory for storing the sub unit information and the caller information detected by the information detector when the answering sub unit specifies, and
- a controller,
- wherein the controller, when detecting the controller information stored in the sub unit specifying caller information coincides with the caller information detected by the information detector, calls a sub unit corresponding to the sub unit information being read out from the sub unit specifying caller information memory.

A feature of claim 6 is that the telephone apparatus directs an incoming call to a particular sub unit based on which sub unit specified the caller's information for storage in the memory (hereinafter generally referred to as the "Sub Unit Feature" of Applicants' claimed invention). The Sub Unit Feature allows the incoming call to be automatically routed to the sub unit to enhance privacy. The Sub Unit Feature and the advantages associated with it are neither taught nor suggested by any of the references of record.

The Office Action readily admits at page 8 that "Figa does not explicitly show a plurality of sub units". It is Applicants' contention that there is also no teaching or suggestion of sub units with respect to the Miyamoto Patent. Moreover, the Uyeno Patent only relates to a quick-recognition visual notification system and does not in any manner teach or suggest, or is associated with sub units as set forth in Applicants' independent claim 6, to which claims 7, 8 and 11 depend.

Applicants note that Figure 6 of the Uyeno Patent shows a base station 70 receiving incoming calls and radio telephones R1, R2, and R3. But nowhere in the Uyeno Patent is there any teaching or suggestion of the Sub Unit Feature of Applicants' claimed invention wherein an incoming call is directed to a particular sub unit based on which sub unit specified the caller information for storage in the

memory as stated in Applicants' claim 6 (i.e. the Sub Unit Feature). Lacking any teaching of the Sub Unit Feature, the references of record can neither anticipate nor render obvious Applicants' claim 6, as well as dependent claims 7, 8 and 11. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Section 103(a) rejection directed to claims 6, 7, 8 and 11 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

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